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FEB. 88
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SPIRAL ZONE™

DIRK™

KAT™

HIRO™

MAX™

TANK™

0 70989 31790 02

THE MONTH IS SEPTEMBER. THE YEAR, 2007.
BARELY THREE MONTHS AGO, THE BRILLIANT BUT EVIL SCIENTIST KNOWN AS OVERLORD SUCCEEDED IN ENVELOPING HALF THE WORLD'S SURFACE WITHIN A SINISTER SPIRAL OF FORCE AS THE OPENING GAMBIT IN HIS BID TO DOMINATE THE EARTH...
THE DIABOLICAL CONTRIVANCES HE DEVISED TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN THIS SPIRAL ZONE -- KNOWN AS ZONE GENERATORS -- SPEW FORTH NOXIOUS CLOUDS OF MYSTERIOUS, CRACKLING ENERGY THAT SAP THOSE EXPOSED TO IT OF THEIR FREE WILL, TRANSFORMING THEM INTO MINDLESS AUTOMATONS, CARRYING OUT OVERLORD'S DEMANDS!
BUT ONE BAND OF INTREPID HEROES WAGES RELENTLESS WARFARE AGAINST THE ATTEMPTS OF OVERLORD AND HIS HENCHMEN -- THE NEFARIOUS BLACK WIDOWS -- TO EXTEND HIS SPIRAL ZONE OVER THE ENTIRE PLANET. THEY ARE --

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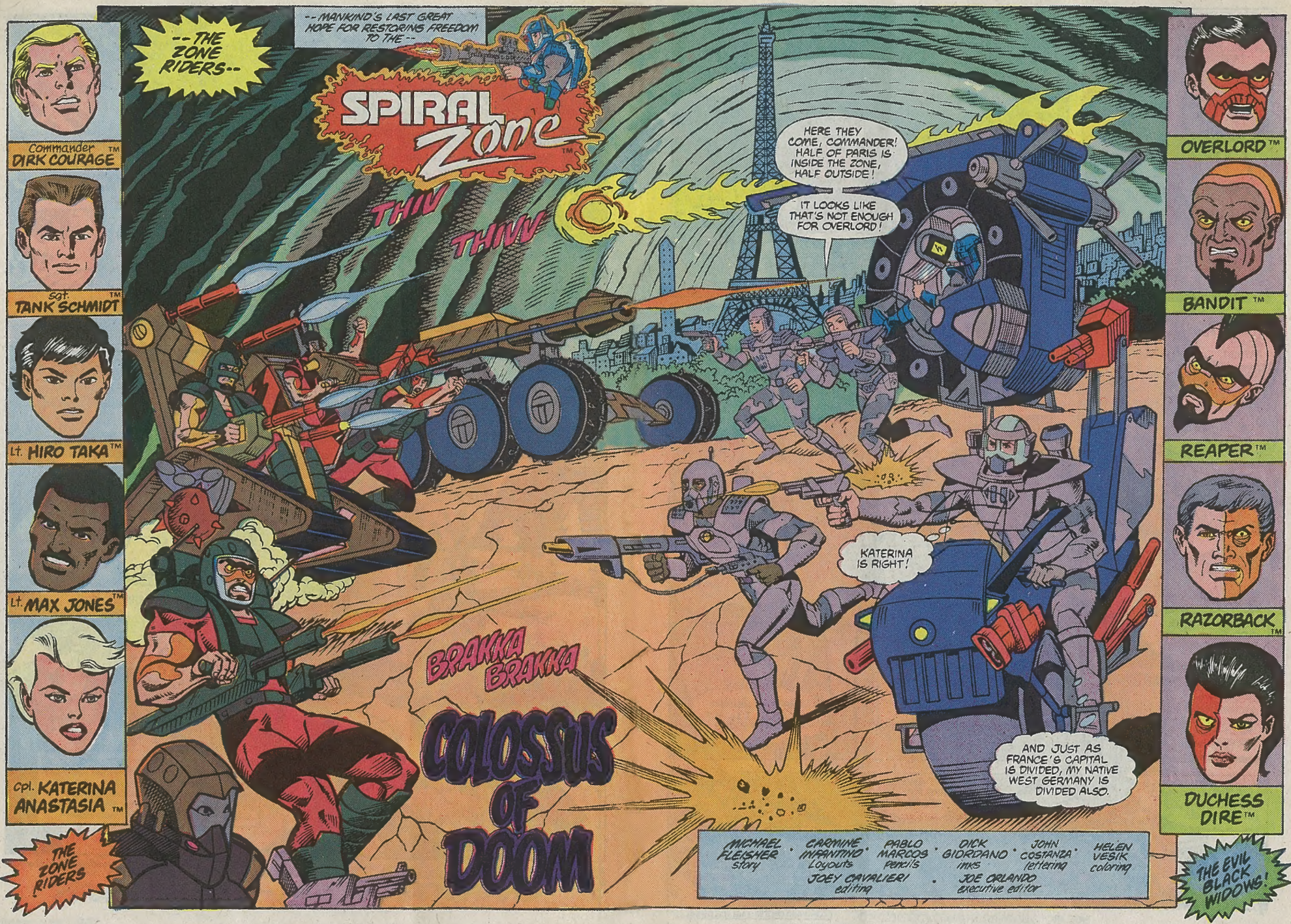
--THE ZONE RIDERS--
--MANKIND'S LAST GREAT HOPE FOR RESTORING FREEDOM TO THE--
SPIRAL Zone
THIV
THIVV
HERE THEY COME, COMMANDER! HALF OF PARIS IS INSIDE THE ZONE, HALF OUTSIDE!
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR OVERLORD!
KATERINA IS RIGHT!
AND JUST AS FRANCE'S CAPITAL IS DIVIDED, MY NATIVE WEST GERMANY IS DIVIDED ALSO.
BRAKKA BRAKKA
COLOSSUS OF DOOM
Commander DIRK COURAGE ™
Sgt. TANK SCHMIDT ™
Lt. HIRO TAKA ™
Lt. MAX JONES ™
Cpl. KATERINA ANASTASIA ™
OVERLORD ™
BANDIT ™
REAPER ™
RAZORBACK ™
DUCHESS DIRE ™
MICHAEL FLEISHER story
CARMINE INFANTINO Layouts
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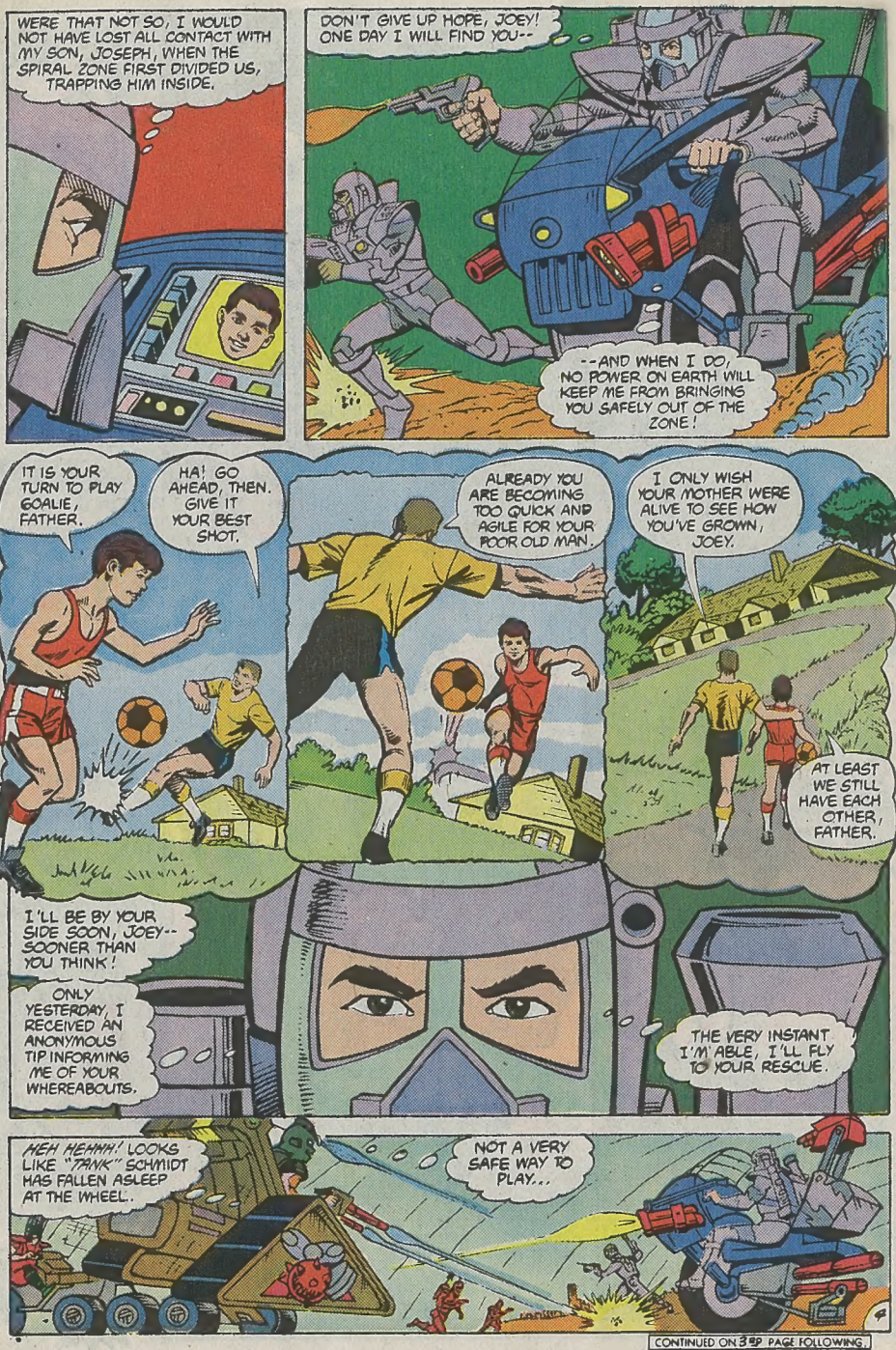
DICK GIORDANO inks
JOHN COSTANZA lettering
HELEN VESIK coloring
JOEY CAVALIERI editing
JOE ORLANDO executive editor
THE ZONE RIDERS
THE EVIL BLACK WIDOWS!


WERE THAT NOT SO, I WOULD NOT HAVE LOST ALL CONTACT WITH MY SON, JOSEPH, WHEN THE SPIRAL ZONE FIRST DIVIDED US, TRAPPING HIM INSIDE.
DON'T GIVE UP HOPE, JOEY! ONE DAY I WILL FIND YOU--
--AND WHEN I DO, NO POWER ON EARTH WILL KEEP ME FROM BRINGING YOU SAFELY OUT OF THE ZONE!
IT IS YOUR TURN TO PLAY GOALIE, FATHER.
HA! GO AHEAD, THEN. GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT.
ALREADY YOU ARE BECOMING TOO QUICK AND AGILE FOR YOUR POOR OLD MAN.
I ONLY WISH YOUR MOTHER WERE ALIVE TO SEE HOW YOU'VE GROWN, JOEY.
AT LEAST WE STILL HAVE EACH OTHER, FATHER.
I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE SOON, JOEY-- SOONER THAN YOU THINK!
ONLY YESTERDAY, I RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS TIP INFORMING ME OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS.
THE VERY INSTANT I'M ABLE, I'LL FLY TO YOUR RESCUE.
HEH HEHHH! LOOKS LIKE "DANK" SCHMIDT HAS FALLEN ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL.
NOT A VERY SAFE WAY TO PLAY...

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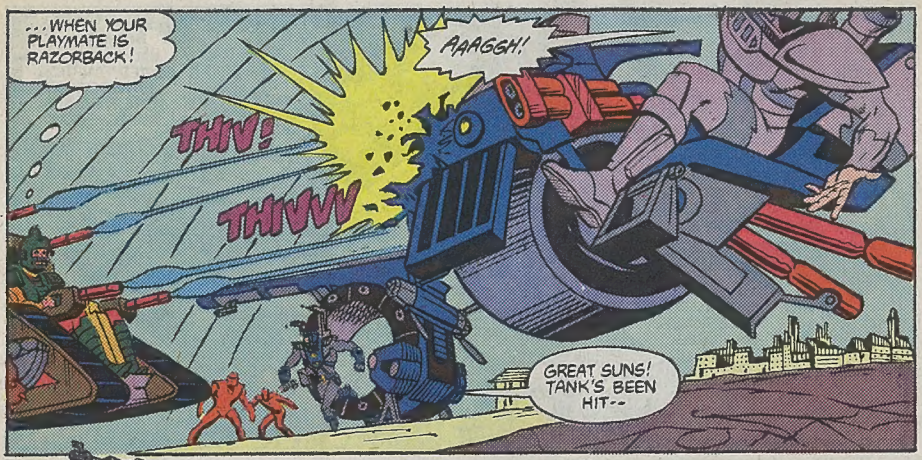
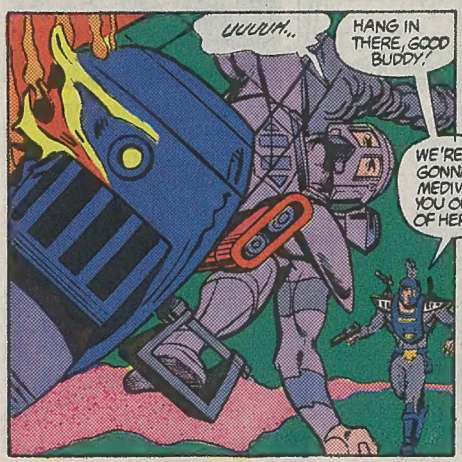

...WHEN YOUR PLAYMATE IS RAZORBACK!
THIV!
THIVVV
AAAGGH!
GREAT SUNS! TANK'S BEEN HIT--

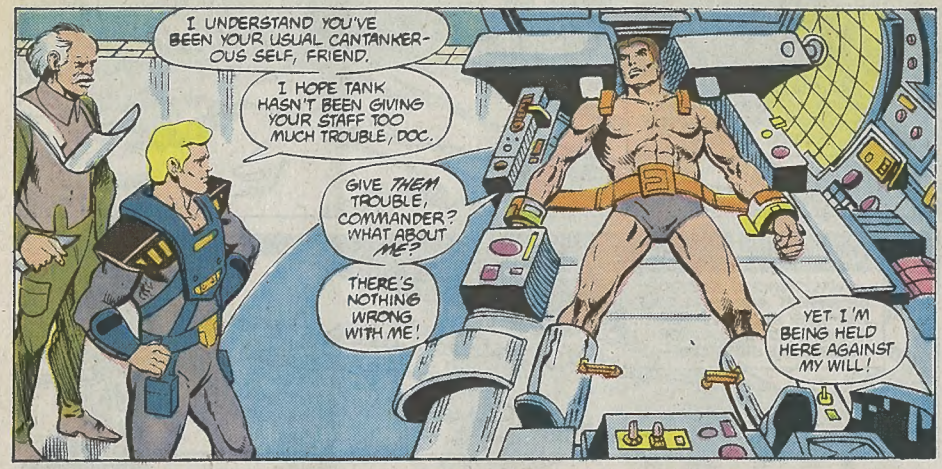
-- AND RAZORBACK'S CLOSING IN TO FINISH HIM OFF!

HANG IN THERE, OLD FRIEND! I'M COMING!
UH-OH! NO WAY I'M GONNA GO UP AGAINST DIRK COURAGE ONE ON ONE!
I'M SCRAMMIN' OUTA HERE WHILE THE SCRAMMIN'S GOOD!

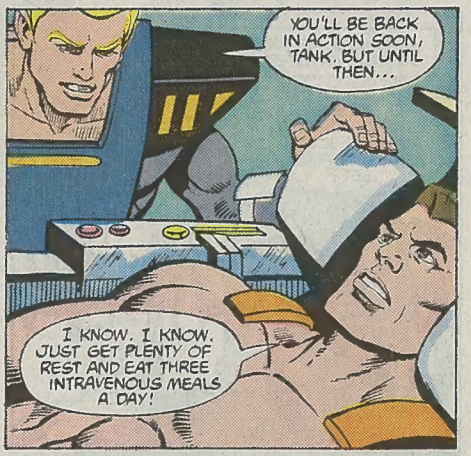

UUUUH...
HANG IN THERE, GOOD BUDDY!
WE'RE GONNA MEDIVAC YOU OUT OF HERE!

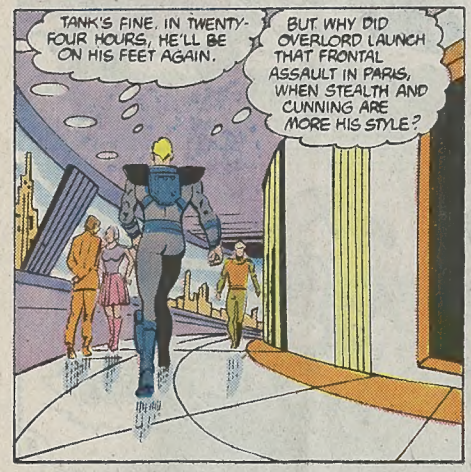
AND DON'T WORRY. HALF OF PARIS IS STILL SECURE.
WE'VE DRIVEN OVERLORD AND HIS SLIME RIGHT BACK INSIDE THE ZONE.
GUESS I GOT WHAT I DESERVED FOR CATNAPPING ON THE JOB, EH, COMMANDER?

SOMETIME LATER, WITHIN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS OF MISSION COMMAND CENTRAL, THE MULTINATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND MILITARY BRAINTRUST SET UP BY THE U.N. TO COMBAT THE MENACE OF THE SPIRAL ZONE...
HIMMEL! YOU WHITE-COATED FANATICS HAVE DEVISED MORE TORTURES THAN OVERLORD!
COUPLE OF MINOR CONTUSIONS... NO SERIOUS FRACTURES.
LASER ENCEPHALOGRAM INDICATES NORMAL BRAIN ACTIVITY.
I'M FINE, I TELL YOU! NOW WHEN THE DEVIL ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME OUT OF HERE?
WE'LL DISCHARGE YOU, SGT. SCHMIDT, JUST AS SOON AS WE'VE COMPLETED RUNNING THESE TESTS.
I'LL WANT TO SEE THAT RADIATION REPORT AS SOON AS THE LAB'S DONE WITH IT.
RIGHT.
STOP COMPLAINING, SERGEANT. YOU'RE DARNED LUCKY TO HAVE WALKED AWAY FROM THAT FIREFIGHT.
BAH!
VISITOR HERE TO SEE YOU, SERGEANT.

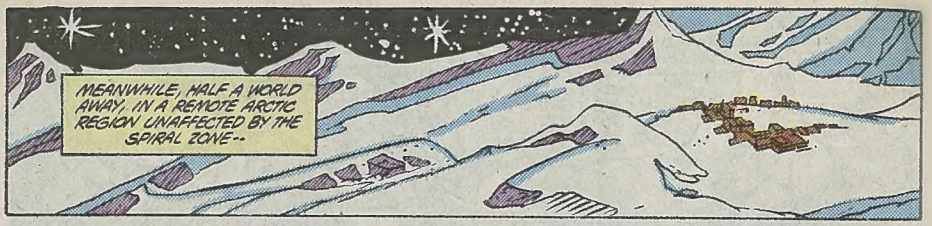

I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN YOUR USUAL CANTANKEROUS SELF, FRIEND.
I HOPE TANK HASN'T BEEN GIVING YOUR STAFF TOO MUCH TROUBLE, DOC.
GIVE THEM TROUBLE, COMMANDER? WHAT ABOUT ME?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME!
YET I'M BEING HELD HERE AGAINST MY WILL!

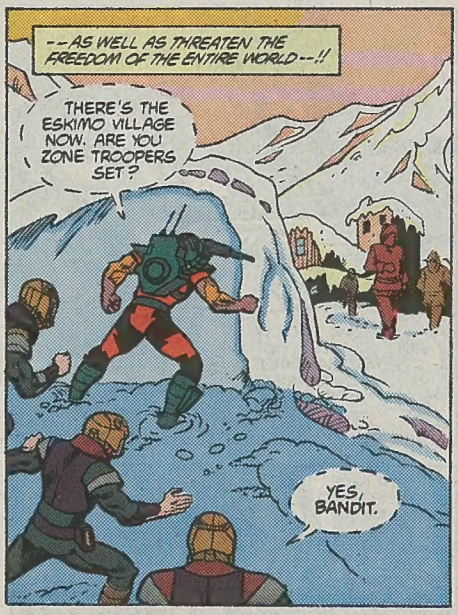
COOL DOWN, TANK. THE DOCS JUST WANT TO KEEP YOU ON THE MONITORS FOR A WHILE, THAT'S ALL.
YES, AND TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU WERE EXPOSED TO NO HARMFUL RADIATION LEAKAGE WHEN YOUR CYCLE WAS HIT.


YOU'LL BE BACK IN ACTION SOON, TANK. BUT UNTIL THEN...
I KNOW. I KNOW. JUST GET PLENTY OF REST AND EAT THREE INTRAVENOUS MEALS A DAY!


TANK'S FINE. IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, HE'LL BE ON HIS FEET AGAIN.
BUT WHY DID OVERLORD LAUNCH THAT FRONTAL ASSAULT IN PARIS, WHEN STEALTH AND CUNNING ARE MORE HIS STYLE?

COULD IT HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO DISTRACT US FROM SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT?
AND WHY WASN'T HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND, BANDIT, THERE FIGHTING WITH HIM?



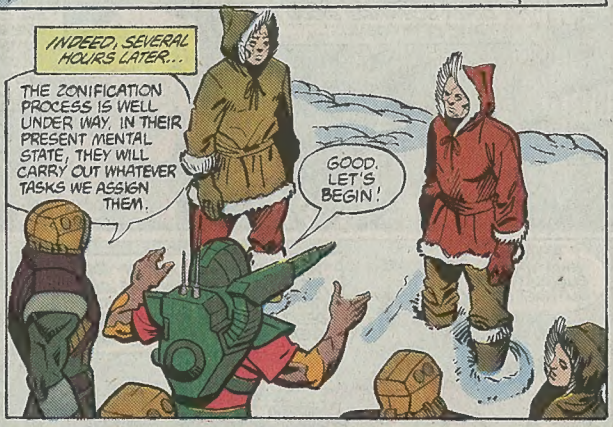


EVEN OUR FROZEN NORTHLAND IS NOT SO ISOLATED THAT WE DO NOT KNOW OVERLORD IS THE MOST EVIL MAN ON EARTH!
THEY'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE..
FLEE, BROTHERS!

CONTINUED ON 3ED PAGE FOLLOWING

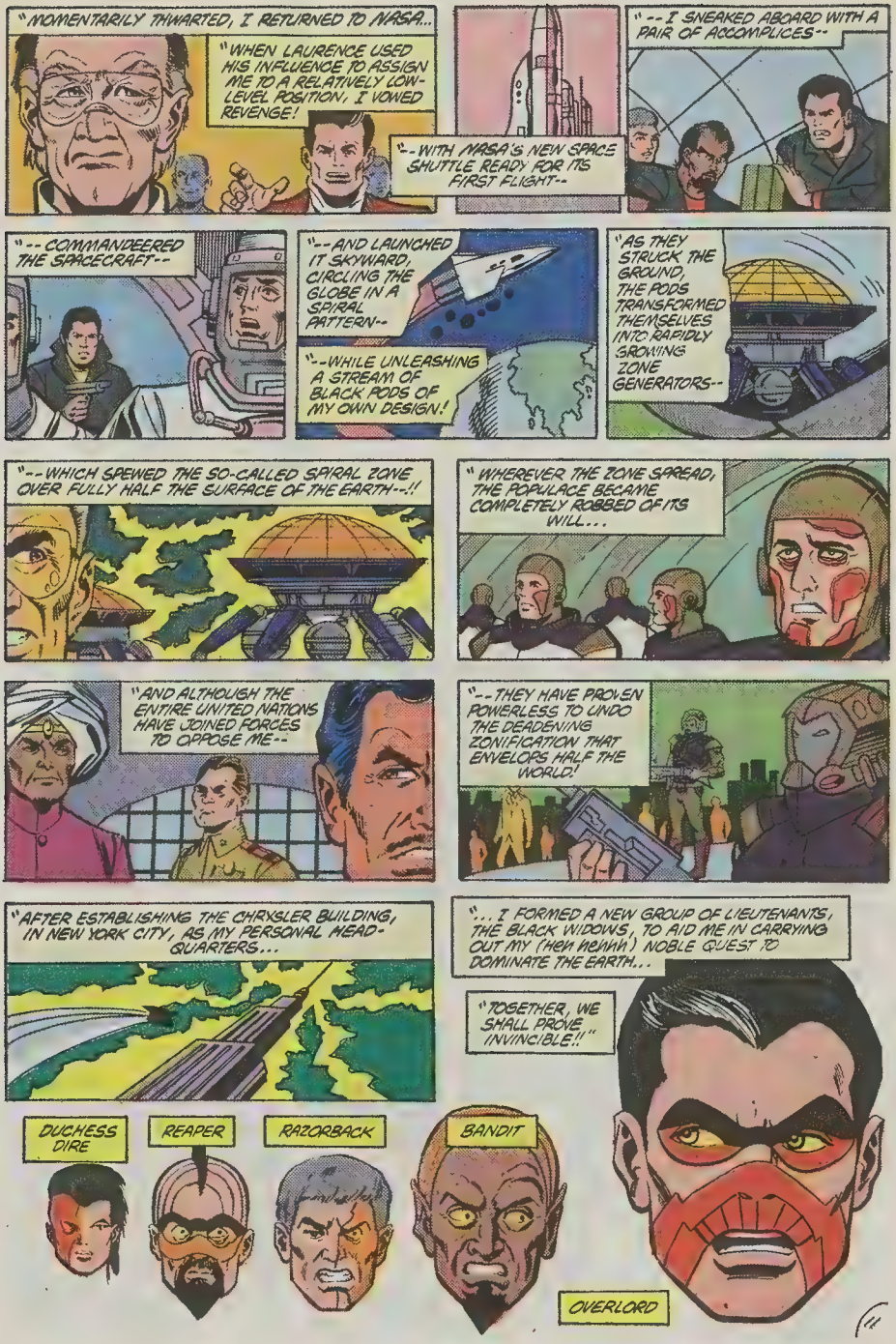
--ONCE I FIRE--
THE ZONE EFFECT CANNON!
AS THE DIABOLICAL CANNON EXPLODES AMID THE PANICKY VILLAGERS, THEY SWIFTLY FIND THEMSELVES BECOMING CONFUSED, DISORIENTED, THEIR WILLS QUICKLY DETERIORATING..

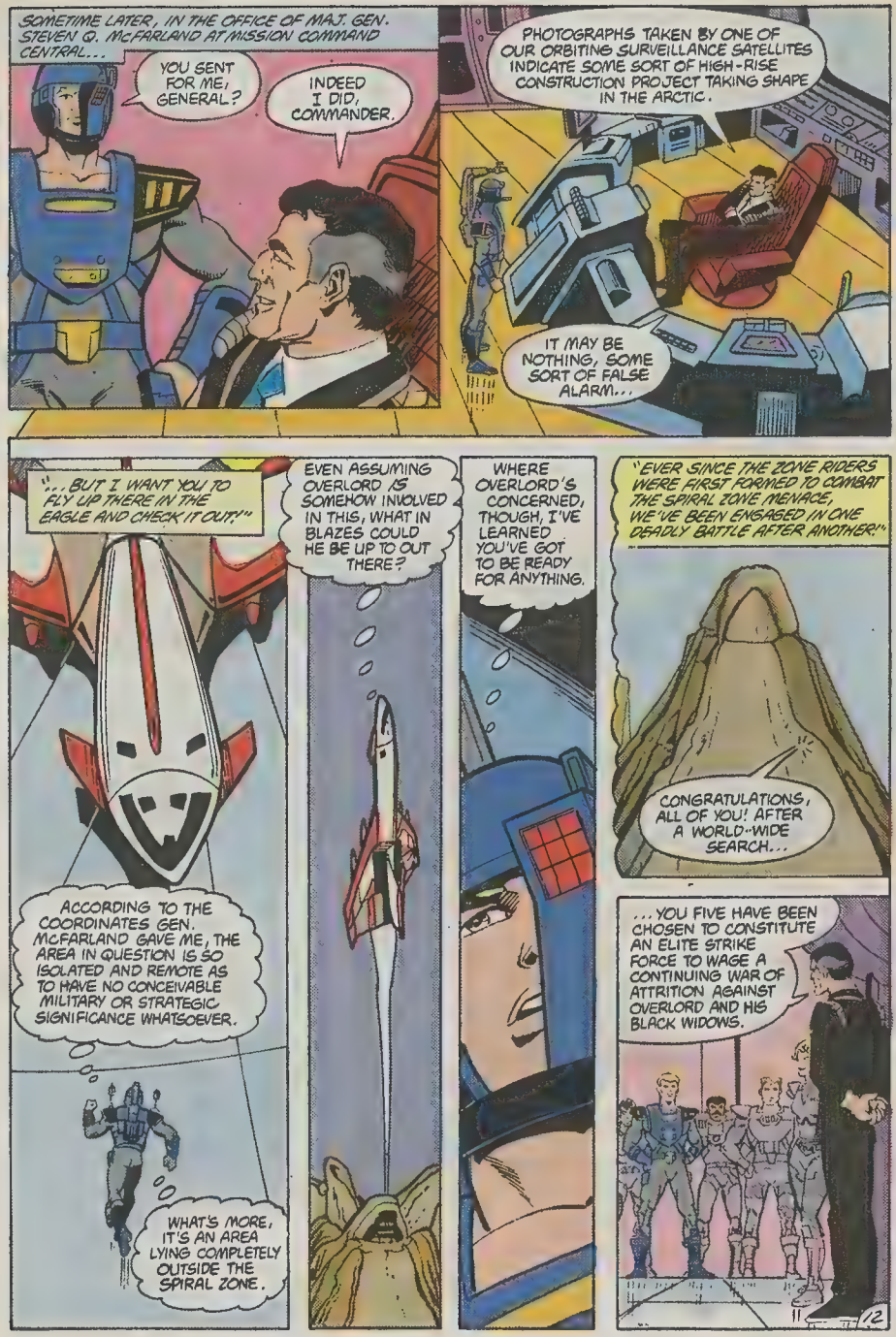
HA HA! EXCELLENT, TROOPS!
NOW ALL WE MUST DO IS WAIT!

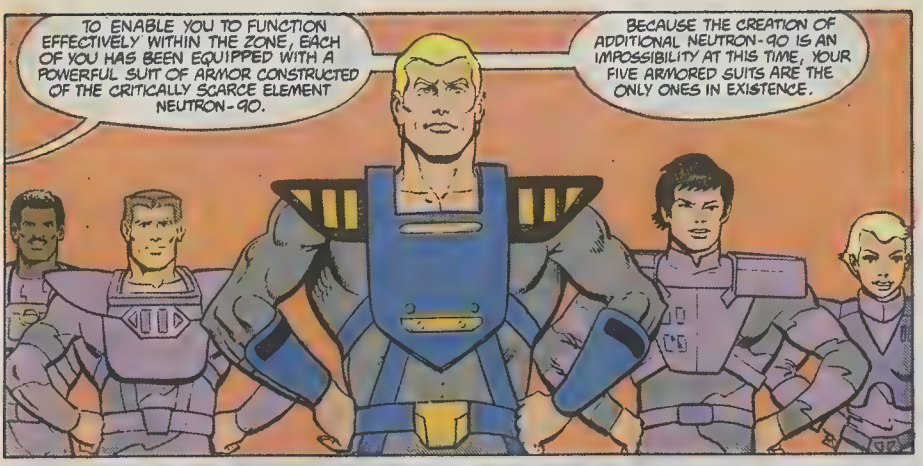

INDEED, SEVERAL HOURS LATER..
THE ZONIFICATION PROCESS IS WELL UNDER WAY. IN THEIR PRESENT MENTAL STATE, THEY WILL CARRY OUT WHATEVER TASKS WE ASSIGN THEM.
GOOD. LET'S BEGIN!

YOU MEN BREAK OUT THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT WE FLEW IN AND BEGIN WORK.
I SHALL CONTACT OVERLORD.

OVERLORD... ALL IS READY!
WELL DONE, BANDIT! YOU HAVE CARRIED OUT PHASE ONE TO PERFECTION.
YOU WILL COMMENCE THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMMEDIATELY.
YES, OVERLORD.
HEH HEHHH! HOW EFFORTLESSLY THE PIECES FALL INTO PLACE NOW--
-- COMPARED TO THOSE TRYING DAYS, NOT SO VERY LONG AGO, WHEN I, AS DR. JAMES BENT, BECAME THE YOUNGEST SCIENTIST EVER TO ASSUME COMMAND OF NASA'S MILITARY RESEARCH SPACE FACILITY.
"THE OTHER SCIENTISTS STOOD IN AWE OF MY GENIUS...
"ALL EXCEPT DR. HAROLD LAURENCE, GENERAL McFARLAND'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND, WHO REGARDED MY IDEAS WITH SKEPTICISM AND SUSPICION...
NASA
BENT, WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING IS OUTRAGEOUS!
"WHEN I SHOWED HIM MY RADICAL NEW PLAN FOR BRINGING ABOUT COMPLETE GLOBAL PEACE BY DESTROYING THE FREE WILL OF EVERY HUMAN BEING ON EARTH--
"--THE NARROW-MINDED FOOL TURNED ME DOWN COLD--!!
YOU'LL REGRET THIS, DOCTOR!
"BUT DID I ABANDON MY GREAT DREAM? NO!
"I LABORED ON IN SECRET--
"AND DEFECTED TO THE SOVIET UNION, OFFERING MY INGENIOUS PLAN TO THEM--!!
"FEARING A GLOBAL ARMAGEDDON THAT WOULD ANNIHILATE MANKIND, THEY REJECTED MY SCHEME AS WELL...


"MOMENTARILY THWARTED, I RETURNED TO NASA...
"WHEN LAURENCE USED HIS INFLUENCE TO ASSIGN ME TO A RELATIVELY LOW-LEVEL POSITION, I VOWED REVENGE!
"--WITH NASA'S NEW SPACE SHUTTLE READY FOR ITS FIRST FLIGHT--
"--I SNEAKED ABOARD WITH A PAIR OF ACCOMPLICES--
"--COMMANDEERED THE SPACECRAFT--
"--AND LAUNCHED IT SKYWARD, CIRCLING THE GLOBE IN A SPIRAL PATTERN--
"--WHILE UNLEASHING A STREAM OF BLACK PODS OF MY OWN DESIGN!
"AS THEY STRUCK THE GROUND, THE PODS TRANSFORMED THEMSELVES INTO RAPIDLY GROWING ZONE GENERATORS--
"--WHICH SPEWED THE SO-CALLED SPIRAL ZONE OVER FULLY HALF THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH--!!
"WHEREVER THE ZONE SPREAD, THE POPULACE BECAME COMPLETELY ROBBED OF ITS WILL...
"AND ALTHOUGH THE ENTIRE UNITED NATIONS HAVE JOINED FORCES TO OPPOSE ME--
"--THEY HAVE PROVEN POWERLESS TO UNDO THE DEADENING ZONIFICATION THAT ENVELOPS HALF THE WORLD!
"AFTER ESTABLISHING THE CHRYSLER BUILDING, IN NEW YORK CITY, AS MY PERSONAL HEAD-QUARTERS...
"... I FORMED A NEW GROUP OF LIEUTENANTS, THE BLACK WIDOWS, TO AID ME IN CARRYING OUT MY (HER HERE) NOBLE QUEST TO DOMINATE THE EARTH...
"TOGETHER, WE SHALL PROVE INVINCIBLE!!"
DUCHESS DIRE
REAPER
RAZORBACK
BANDIT
OVERLORD


SOMETIME LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF MAJ. GEN. STEVEN Q. MCFARLAND AT MISSION COMMAND CENTRAL...
YOU SENT FOR ME, GENERAL?
INDEED I DID, COMMANDER.
PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY ONE OF OUR ORBITING SURVEILLANCE SATELLITES INDICATE SOME SORT OF HIGH-RISE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TAKING SHAPE IN THE ARCTIC.
IT MAY BE NOTHING, SOME SORT OF FALSE ALARM...
"...BUT I WANT YOU TO FLY UP THERE IN THE EAGLE AND CHECK IT OUT!"
ACCORDING TO THE COORDINATES GEN. MCFARLAND GAVE ME, THE AREA IN QUESTION IS SO ISOLATED AND REMOTE AS TO HAVE NO CONCEIVABLE MILITARY OR STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE WHATSOEVER.
WHAT'S MORE, IT'S AN AREA LYING COMPLETELY OUTSIDE THE SPIRAL ZONE.
EVEN ASSUMING OVERLORD IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN THIS, WHAT IN BLAZES COULD HE BE UP TO OUT THERE?
WHERE OVERLORD'S CONCERNED, THOUGH, I'VE LEARNED YOU'VE GOT TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING.
"EVER SINCE THE ZONE RIDERS WERE FIRST FORMED TO COMBAT THE SPIRAL ZONE MENACE, WE'VE BEEN ENGAGED IN ONE DEADLY BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER!"
CONGRATULATIONS, ALL OF YOU! AFTER A WORLD-WIDE SEARCH...
...YOU FIVE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO CONSTITUTE AN ELITE STRIKE FORCE TO WAGE A CONTINUING WAR OF ATTRITION AGAINST OVERLORD AND HIS BLACK WIDOWS.
12

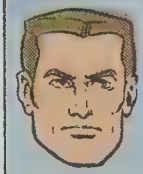

TO ENABLE YOU TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY WITHIN THE ZONE, EACH OF YOU HAS BEEN EQUIPPED WITH A POWERFUL SUIT OF ARMOR CONSTRUCTED OF THE CRITICALLY SCARCE ELEMENT NEUTRON-90.
BECAUSE THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL NEUTRON-90 IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY AT THIS TIME, YOUR FIVE ARMORED SUITS ARE THE ONLY ONES IN EXISTENCE.

DIRK COURAGE

RANK: COMMANDER

SPECIALTY: LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY, TACTICS

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: U.S.A.



WOLFGANG "TANK" SCHMIDT

RANK: MASTER-SERGEANT

SPECIALTY: HEAVY WEAPONS

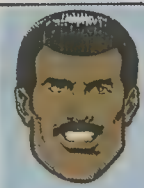
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: GERMANY

HIRO TAKA

RANK: 1ST LIEUTENANT

SPECIALTY: INFILTRATION, SNIPER, POINT MAN

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: JAPAN

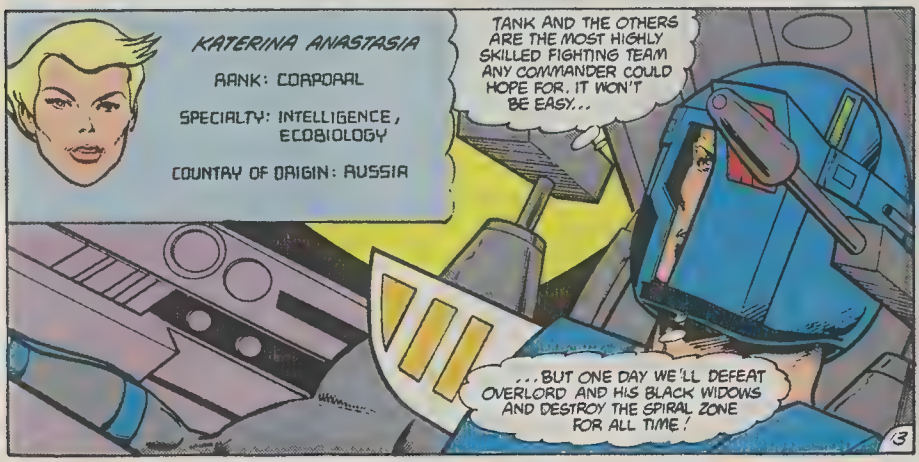


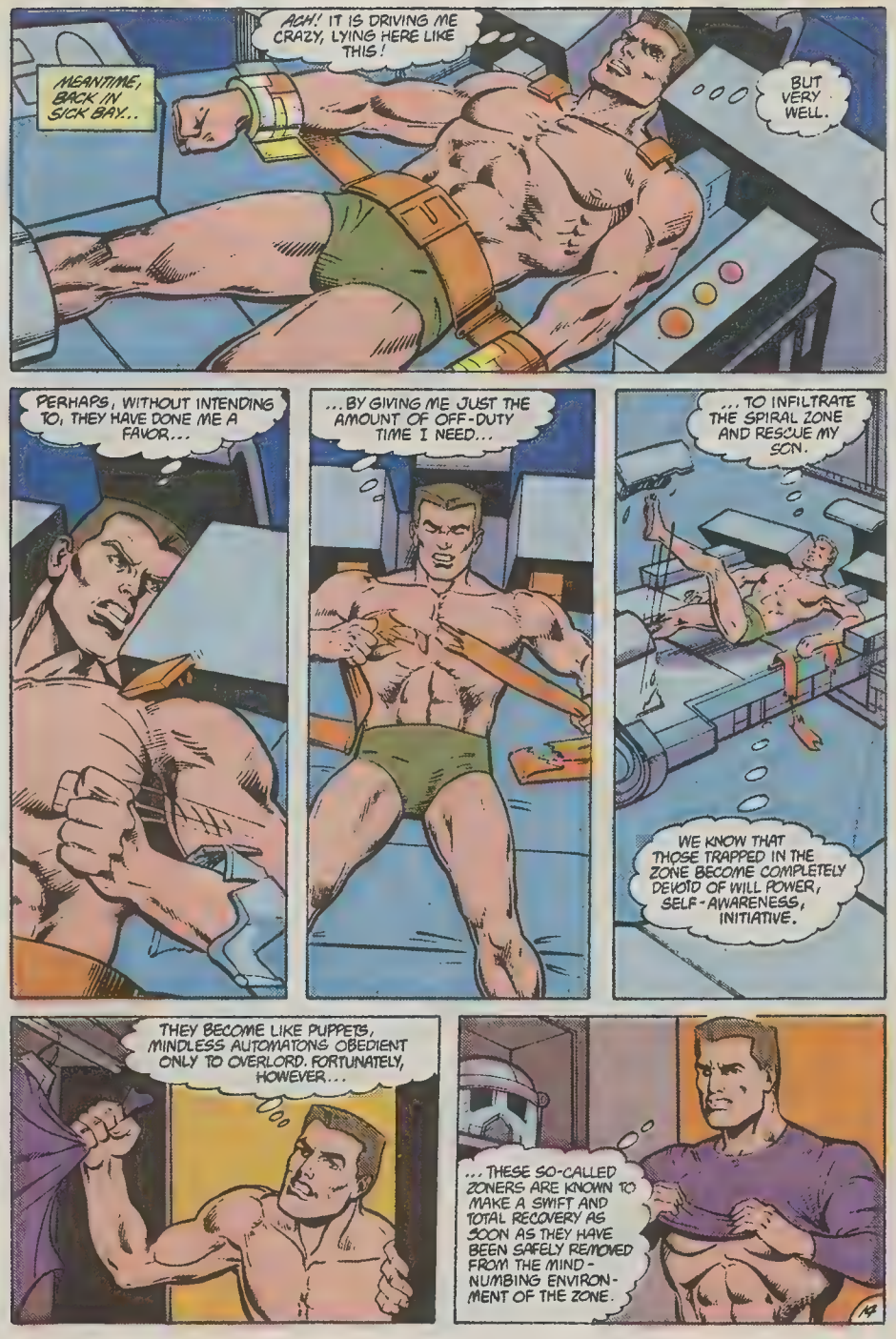
MAX JONES

RANK: 2ND LIEUTENANT

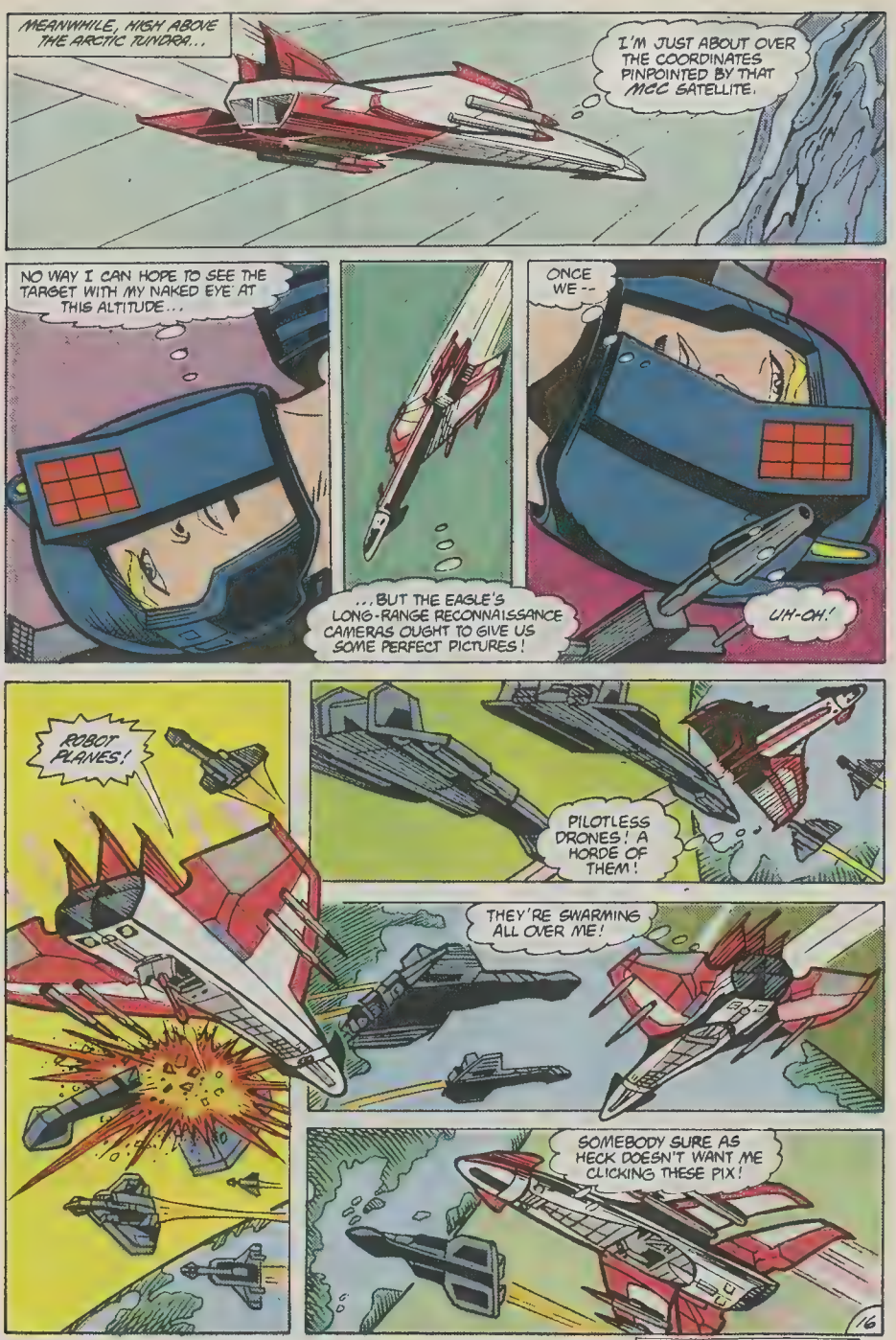
SPECIALTY: SCOUT, ZONE RUNNER

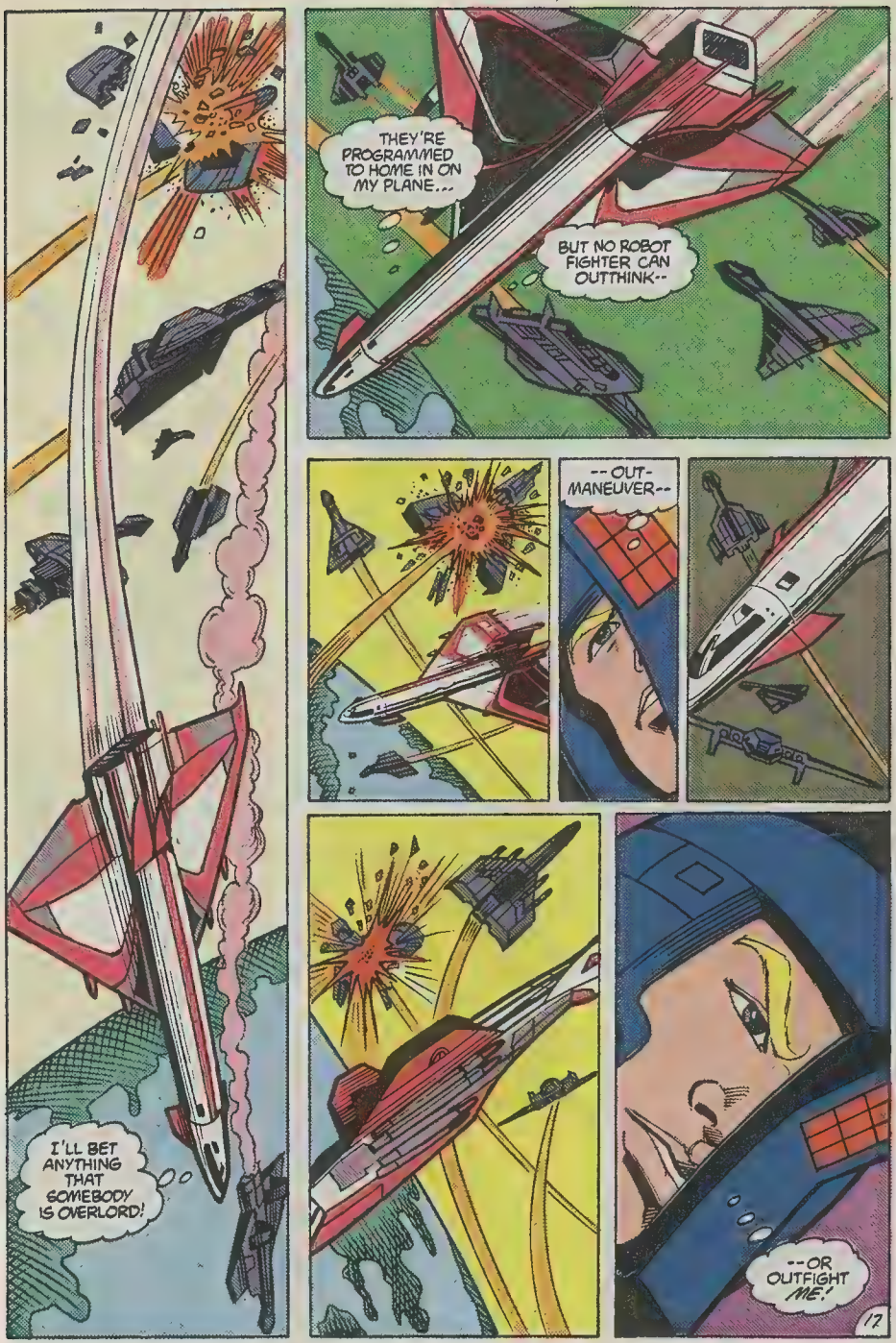
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: U.S.A.


KATERINA ANASTASIA
RANK: CORPORAL
SPECIALTY: INTELLIGENCE, ECOBIOLOGY
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: RUSSIA
TANK AND THE OTHERS ARE THE MOST HIGHLY SKILLED FIGHTING TEAM ANY COMMANDER COULD HOPE FOR. IT WON'T BE EASY...
...BUT ONE DAY WE'LL DEFEAT OVERLORD AND HIS BLACK WIDOWS AND DESTROY THE SPIRAL ZONE FOR ALL TIME!

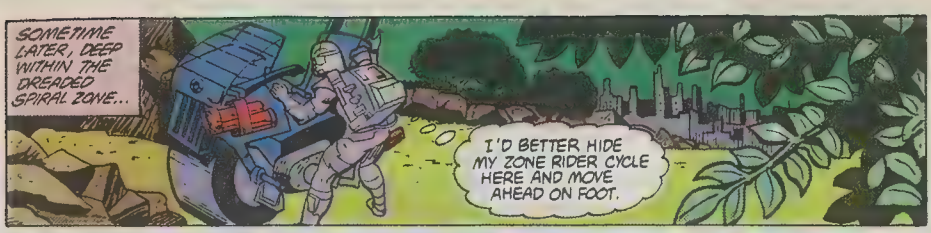

MEANTIME, BACK IN SICK BAY..
ACH! IT IS DRIVING ME CRAZY, LYING HERE LIKE THIS!
BUT VERY WELL.
PERHAPS, WITHOUT INTENDING TO, THEY HAVE DONE ME A FAVOR...
...BY GIVING ME JUST THE AMOUNT OF OFF-DUTY TIME I NEED...
... TO INFILTRATE THE SPIRAL ZONE AND RESCUE MY SON.
WE KNOW THAT THOSE TRAPPED IN THE ZONE BECOME COMPLETELY DEVOID OF WILL POWER, SELF-AWARENESS, INITIATIVE.
THEY BECOME LIKE PUPPETS, MINDLESS AUTOMATONS OBEDIENT ONLY TO OVERLORD. FORTUNATELY, HOWEVER...
...THESE SO-CALLED ZONERS ARE KNOWN TO MAKE A SWIFT AND TOTAL RECOVERY AS SOON AS THEY HAVE BEEN SAFELY REMOVED FROM THE MIND-NUMBING ENVIRONMENT OF THE ZONE.

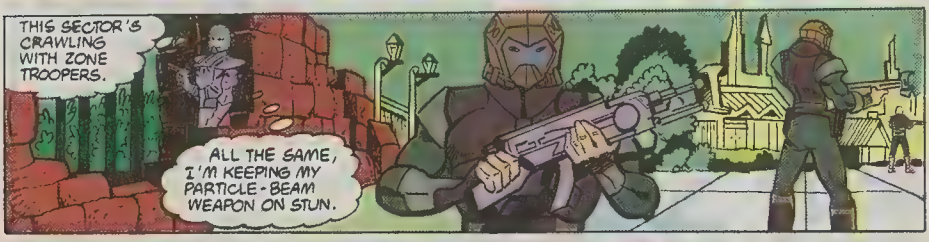
PRESENTLY..
GOOD NEWS, SGT. SCHMIDT!
YOUR LAB RESULTS ARE IN, AND THEY'RE--
SGT. SCHMIDT?
GOOD GRIEF!
WHERE ON EARTH CAN HE HAVE--
--GONE--?!
JUST HANG ON A SHORT WHILE LONGER, JOEY!
I'M COMING TO GET YOU!

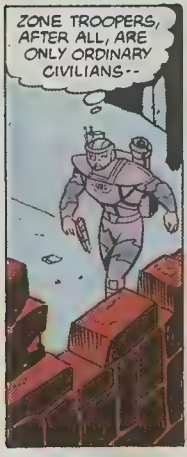

MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE ARCTIC TUNDRA...
I'M JUST ABOUT OVER THE COORDINATES PINPOINTED BY THAT MCC SATELLITE.
NO WAY I CAN HOPE TO SEE THE TARGET WITH MY NAKED EYE AT THIS ALTITUDE...
...BUT THE EAGLE'S LONG-RANGE RECONNAISSANCE CAMERAS OUGHT TO GIVE US SOME PERFECT PICTURES!
ONCE WE --
UH-OH!
ROBOT PLANES!
PILOTLESS DRONES! A HORDE OF THEM!
THEY'RE SWARMING ALL OVER ME!
SOMEBODY SURE AS HECK DOESN'T WANT ME CLICKING THESE PIX!
16
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

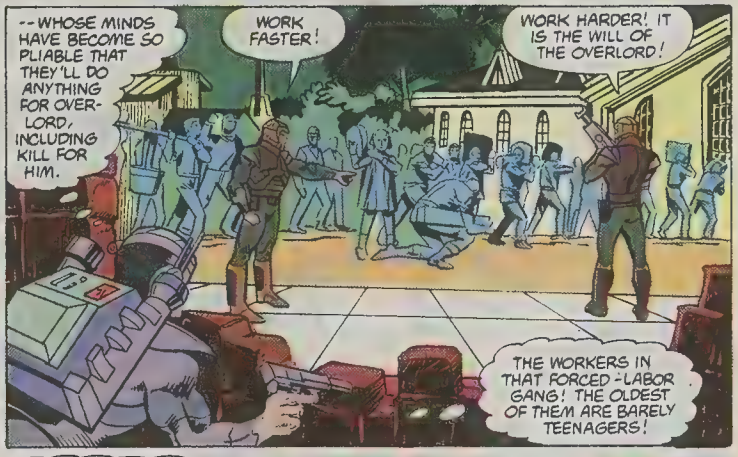

I'LL BET ANYTHING THAT SOMEBODY IS OVERLORD!
THEY'RE PROGRAMMED TO HOME IN ON MY PLANE...
BUT NO ROBOT FIGHTER CAN OUTTHINK--
--OUT-MANEUVER--
--OR OUTFIGHT ME!

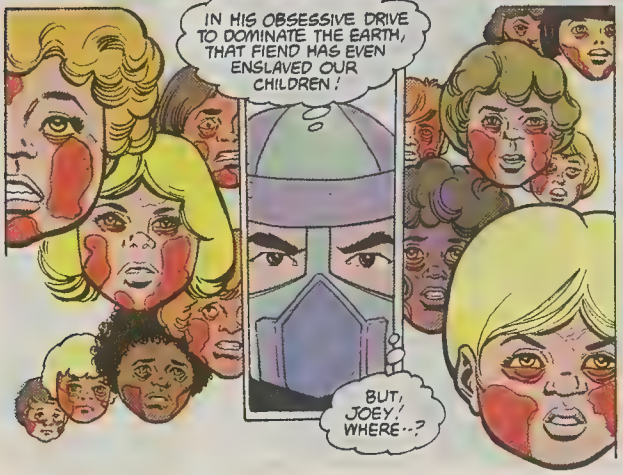
I'VE GOT WHAT I WANTED--
--AND MY CAMERA'S JUST ABOUT EMPTY!
THAT MEANS... "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!"
TIME TO HEAD FOR HOME--
--AND MISSION COMMAND CENTRAL!


SOMETIME LATER, DEEP WITHIN THE DREADED SPIRAL ZONE...
I'D BETTER HIDE MY ZONE RIDER CYCLE HERE AND MOVE AHEAD ON FOOT.

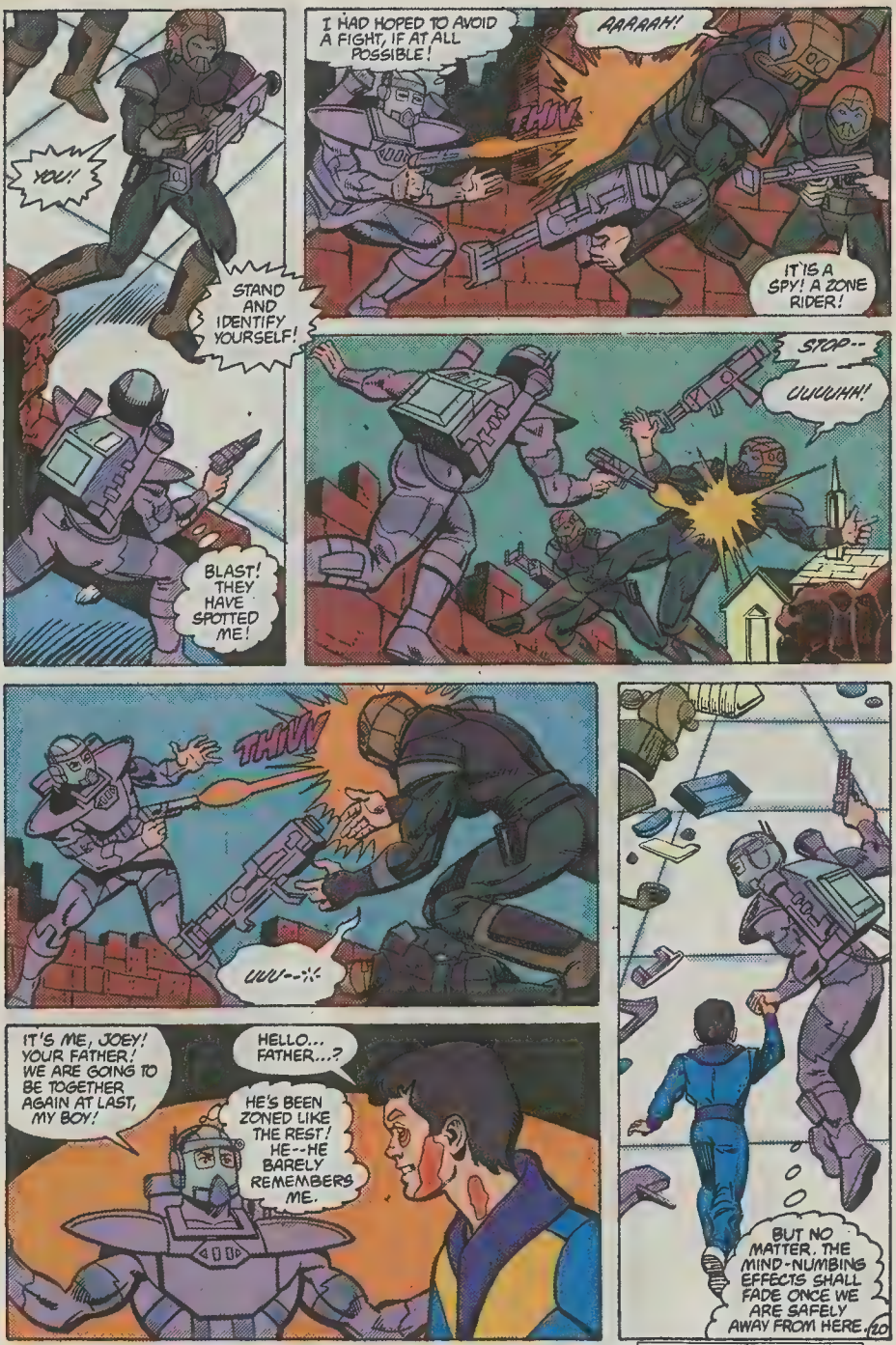

THIS SECTOR'S CRAWLING WITH ZONE TROOPERS.
ALL THE SAME, I'M KEEPING MY PARTICLE-BEAM WEAPON ON STUN.


ZONE TROOPERS, AFTER ALL, ARE ONLY ORDINARY CIVILIANS--


--WHOSE MINDS HAVE BECOME SO PLIABLE THAT THEY'LL DO ANYTHING FOR OVER-LORD, INCLUDING KILL FOR HIM.
WORK FASTER!
WORK HARDER! IT IS THE WILL OF THE OVERLORD!
THE WORKERS IN THAT FORCED-LABOR GANG! THE OLDEST OF THEM ARE BARELY TEENAGERS!


IN HIS OBSESSIVE DRIVE TO DOMINATE THE EARTH, THAT FIEND HAS EVEN ENSLAVED OUR CHILDREN!
BUT, JOEY! WHERE--?

PRAISE HEAVEN! THERE HE--


I HAD HOPED TO AVOID A FIGHT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE!
AAAAAH!
THW
IT IS A SPY! A ZONE RIDER!
YOU!
STAND AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF!
BLAST! THEY HAVE SPOTTED ME!
STOP--
UUUUHH!
THW
UUU--
IT'S ME, JOEY! YOUR FATHER! WE ARE GOING TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN AT LAST, MY BOY!
HELLO... FATHER...?
HE'S BEEN ZONED LIKE THE REST! HE--HE BARELY REMEMBERS ME.
BUT NO MATTER. THE MIND-NUMBING EFFECTS SHALL FADE ONCE WE ARE SAFELY AWAY FROM HERE.
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CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

WITHIN MOMENTS...
WHERE ARE... YOU TAKING ME... FATHER?
JUST TRUST ME, SON! PLEASE!
YOU'LL UNDER-STAND EV--
WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T MY GOOD FRIEND SGT. SCHMIDT.
WHA--!?
HOW AWFULLY GOOD OF YOU TO PAY US THIS LITTLE VISIT.
DUCHESS, TAKE HIS WEAPONS.
HA HA! WITH PLEASURE, OVERLORD.
TRAPPED!
BUT--BUT HOW DID--
HOW DID WE KNOW YOU WERE COMING HERE? HA HA! EASILY!
IT WAS WE WHO PROVIDED THE ANONYMOUS TIP THAT LURED YOU HERE.
AND THIS LITTLE HOMING DEVICE WE GAVE YOUNG JOEY--
--ENABLE US TO TRACK YOU STEP BY STEP FROM THE MOMENT YOU MADE CONTACT WITH HIM.
I LIVE ONLY... TO SERVE YOU... OVERLORD.
TAKE HIM AWAY! WE HAVE SOME RATHER, AH, INTER-ESTING PLANS FOR SGT. SCHMIDT!
DON'T BE SAD.. FATHER...!
SOON YOU'LL BE A ZONER... JUST LIKE... ME!

THE ARCTIC..
COURAGE MUST HAVE SUCCEEDED IN FILLING HIS CAMERAS WITH RECONNAISSANCE SHOTS. AREN'T YOU WORRIED?
WORRY? HA HA! WHY SHOULD I? IT'S ONLY A HARMLESS STATUE WE'RE BUILDING HERE--
--ISN'T IT?
OUR HEROES' ADVENTURES CONTINUE IN SPIRAL ZONE #2!
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L-3018

MASTER COMMAND CENTRAL
Confidential Report
Eyes Only
From: Maj. Gen. Steven Q. McFarland
To: United Nations Security Council
Date: September 18, 2007
Esteemed Council:

As you know, it has been some months since the formation of the dreaded area known as the Spiral Zone. To clear up some of the confusion caused by the break-up of communication links caused by the Zone, my office has prepared this report.

On June 18, 1987, the United States was due to launch a new type of military space shuttle, designed to attain top speeds in Earth's atmosphere or beyond. It also had built into it several other military capabilities currently being declassified at this time.

At 0703, control over all phases of the launch was lost to us, with commands overridden by an outside source. That source later proved to be a former NASA scientist and engineer, one Dr. James Bent, now code-named "Overlord." Bent apparently duplicated secret clearance documents, and with the aid of his accomplices, skyjacked the launch.

Bent forced the shuttle to circumnavigate the Earth beginning at the north polar region, racing in a spiral pattern as he traveled. Witnesses below recounted that as the craft piloted overhead, it dropped strange black pod-like objects that exploded on impact.

The pods detonated. But this was merely to create a protective crater, guarding against interference as they carried out Overlord's intentions. The pods "unfolded," if you will, transforming themselves into giant generators. These generators have been shown to conduct an awesome amount of energy, to which chemicals have been added as well. The combination formed an intense, deep mist, thicker than the thickest fog. Anyone who comes in contact with this fog slowly becomes changed.

Their intelligence and their will become as foggy as the surroundings. Even their skin changes, erupting in ugly spore-like formations, as a result of the bacteria that thrives in these areas. We say that they become "zoned." They completely lose their free will and are easily manipulated by other people. They will obey any command put to them by one of stronger will. These "zoners" are still able to perform tasks and functions despite their diminished wills, making them slaves to whoever commands them.

More and more of these "zone generators" sprang up all over the globe. They were reported in Moscow, New York, Paris, Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, London, Havana, Los Angeles and Boston.

Overlord completed one spiral circuit around the Earth, and was about to start a second, in effect enslaving the entire planet. By then, however, combined forces of the world's military outposts pursued the errant shuttle. One finally brought it down.

It was a lucky shot.

Overlord ditched the shuttle and parachuted into the remains of the Chrysler Building, now his base of operations. For the united forces of Mission Command Central, it remains to confront the world as it is—half-enslaved and half-free; to defend against further incursions against the Free World; and to liberate the unfortunate denizens of the Spiral Zone.

There are several facts related to the Zone that may aid in the final downfall of Overlord and his plans for world conquest.

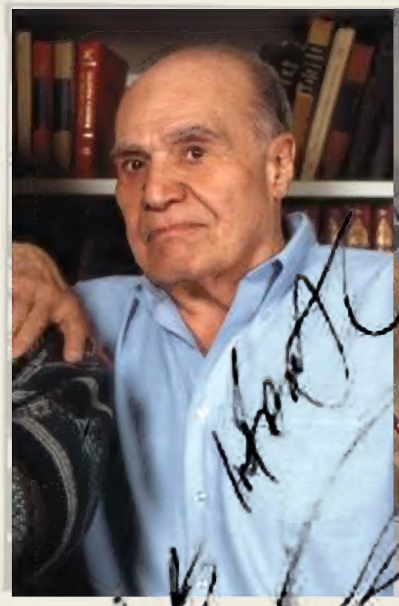
We know that a Zone Generator destroys the wills of all who come within its radius in a matter of forty-eight hours. The Zone Generators themselves feed off human energy to continue functioning. That is why Overlord never kills, even members of the M.C.C. who have sworn to bring him down. He needs as much human life energy as possible to keep his Zone Generators operable. As far as we can tell, the Spiral Zone does not extend its dominion underwater. Furthermore, once a Zoner is removed from the effective radius of the Zone, he or she slowly regains free will. That is why we of Mission Command Central avoid killing the unlucky victims of the Zone, even if they are commanded by Overlord to raise weapons to us. The Zoners can be liberated and restored to normal life, if "normal life" can be said to exist on this bedraggled planet at this time.

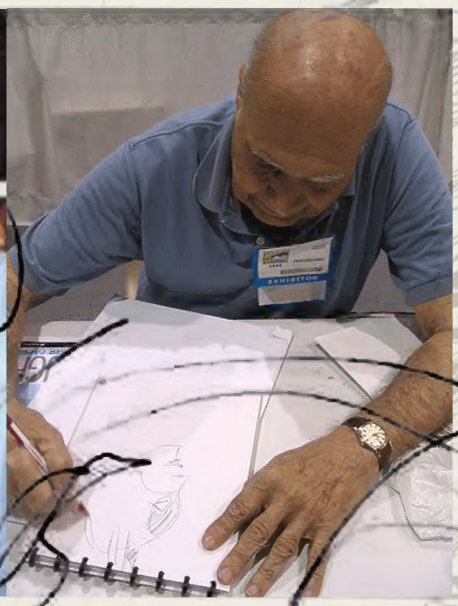
Overlord and his henchmen are not affected by the Spiral Zone. They have been inoculated against the dire effects of the Generators. These inoculations exacted a terrible price, however. I caused the permanent scarring of each of them, transforming their visages into the fearsome form they now take.

Our own hand-picked strike force, the Zone Riders, are equipped against the effects of the Spiral Zone. Their armored suits create a breathable atmosphere, insulating them from the effects of the Zone. These suits are powered by a rare substance known as Neutron-90, which is in such short supply that it restricts the number of suits that can be manufactured.

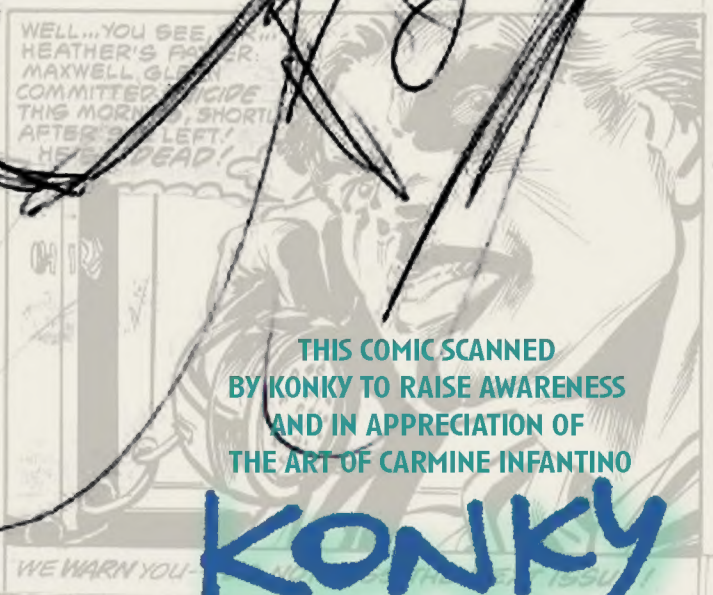
With any luck, however, there may not be a need for Neutron-90 or armored suits for long. If the intrepid Zone Riders are ultimately successful, we may soon see an end to the machinations of Overlord ... and the final destruction of the Spiral Zone.

COMMANDER
DIRK COURAGE





"UH, HEATHER GLENN ISN'T HERE
THE MOMENT! THIS IS MATT MURDOC
"OH! I'VE HEARD OF YO MR. MURDOCK YOU'RE MS. GLENN'S ATTORNEY I--I GUESS I CAN TELL YOU..."
"TELL ME WHAT?"



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